

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 3-25, and 31-32 are pending in this application. These claims were initially rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sirois et al., "Securing the Nimrod Routing Architecture," 1996, IEEE, pages 74-84.

Section 103 Issues

Since all of the claims are based on the use of a "path" the use of the Sirois reference is respectfully traversed. The office action noted that the Sirois reference does not use the "term" path in the sense of the claims. However, Sirois was still used to reject the claims. In view of the fact that the office action noted that the Sirois reference does not use "path" in the sense of the claims, it is unclear why the office action felt it would be obvious to perform a security check using a path. Therefore, it is believed that

The claims have been amended to further clarify the claim scope. It is noted that all claims now recite a "path sealer." A path sealer is described in the specification, for example in Fig. 3 and accompanying text, as well as in the text accompanying Figs. 4 and 5. The Sirois reference fails to teach a path sealer. Therefore, the Sirois reference does not disclose or make obvious each and every element of the claims. For at least this reason, all pending claims are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Appl. No. 09/813,769
Amdt. dated January 24, 2005
Reply to Office Action of August 24, 2004

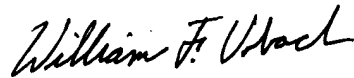
PATENT

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 303-571-4000.

Respectfully submitted,



William F. Vobach
Reg. No. 39,411

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP
Two Embarcadero Center, Eighth Floor
San Francisco, California 94111-3834
Tel: 303-571-4000
Fax: 415-576-0300
Attachments
WFV:klb
60298795 v1